

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 SY-04 A-01 IGA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ST-01 OPR-01 /035 W

----- 017718

P R 130910Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6068

INFO USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: SMUGGLING OF CLOVES

1. ON JANUARY 3, INDONESIAN NATIONAL POLICE INTERCEPTED TWO TRUCK LOADS OF IMPORTED CLOVES ON JAKARTA BY-PASS HIGHWAY. POLICE QUESTIONED DRIVERS AND TRACED CLOVES BACK TO WAREHOUSE OF P T PASAKO VEEM, ONE OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS USED BY EMBASSY. P T PASAKO VEEM PERMITTED P T MISSI RUSLI, ANOTHER FREIGHT FORWARDER NEVER USED BY EMBASSY, THE USE OF ITS WAREHOUSE. ON CHECKING IMPORT DOCUMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS AND FOREIGN OFFICE PROTOCOL, POLICE DETERMINED DOCUMENTS CALLED FOR IMPORTING 2,240 KILOS(8 CASES) OF LIBRARY SUPPLIES FOR USIS ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED FROM INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY IN SINGAPORE. AFTER DOCUMENTS HAD CLEARED FOREIGN OFFICE WEIGHTS ON DOCUMENTS WERE INCREASED TO 63,000 KILOS. FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMED EMBASSY ON JANUARY 9 OF APPARENT SMUGGLING AND REQUESTED EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES TO ACCOMPANY REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN OFFICE, CUSTOMS, ATTORNEY GEN'S OFFICE AND NATIONAL POLICE TO MEET IN P T PASAKO VEEMS WAREHOUSE WHICH HAD BEEN SEALED BY CUSTOMS. WAREHOUSE CONTAINED REMAINDER OF SMUGGLED CLOVES AND IT WAS DETERMINED LIBRARY SUPPLIES WERE NON-EXISTANT. FROM EMBASSY INVESTIGATION AND POLICE QUESTIONING OF PRESIDENT OF P T MISSI RUSLI APPEARS EMBASSY ASSISTANT

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CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING CLERK, PAUZIE SALEH, HAD PROCESSED

THE DOCUMENTS COVERING THE ALLEGED USIS SUPPLIES THROUGH HIS SUPERVISORS AND PROTOCOL SECTION OF FOREIGN OFFICE. HE ABANDONED HIS POSITION ON JANUARY 6 ON THE PRETENSE OF VISITING HIS FAMILY IN PALEMBANG POLICE ARE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE HIM AND THE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING.

2. NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE CLOVES IMPORTED FROM ZANZIBAR AND TRANSHIPPED IN SINGAPORE BY LARGE SMUGGLING SYNDICATE.

3. FIRST STORIES WHICH APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS DID NOT IDENTIFY US EMBASSY OR USIS BUT REFERRED ONLY TO A FOREIGN EMBASSY. A JOURNALIST FROM SINAR HARAPAN LEARNED THAT IT WAS THE US EMBASSY WHICH WAS INVOLVED AND CALLED USIS PRESS OFFICER. AS AGREED BEFOREHAND BY AMBASSADOR, DCM AND ACTING PAO. PRESS OFFICER EXPRESSED EMBASSY'S SURPRISE AT RECEIVING THE REPORT AND STATED THE EMBASSY WAS COOPERATING FULLY WITH INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES AS INVESTIGATION PROGRESSED. SINAR HARAPAN THEN PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 11 A STORY WHICH ACCURATELY DETAILED THE SMUGGLING ATTEMPT AND THE HISTORY OF PREVIOUS SUCH ATTEMPTS BY THE ALLEGED INDONESIAN SMUGGLER WHO WAS WELL KNOWN TO INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES. ARTICLE ALSO STRESSED THAT SMUGGLING ATTEMPT WAS UNCOVERED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND US EMBASSY. ARTICLE ALSO ACCURATELY QUOTED USIS PRESS OFFICER ON EMBASSY'S POSITION.

4. A SECOND ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE INDONESIAN OBSERVER ON MONDAY JANUARY 13 FOLLOWED SAME LINES AS SINAR HARAPAN. EMBASSY BELIEVES SINAR HARAPAN REPORT VERY TIMELY, SERVED TO PUT MATTER IN TRUE PERSPECTIVE AND HELPED TO COUNTER ERRORS CONTAINED IN EARLIER NEWSPAPER REPORTS. NO EFFORT IN PRESS TO EXPLOIT INCIDENT IN WAY HARMFUL TO US IMAGE.

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5. AT PRESENT, LITTLE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE INCIDENT, IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THEY WILL BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART00476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750013-0748
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750158/aaaabylj.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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